

Christmas Trees Provide Unique Beach Stabilization Opportunity

Volunteers Help to Restore Dunes at JEB Little Creek-Fort Story

INSTEAD OF HAULING their Christmas trees to the curb after the holidays, over 100 residents and military personnel on Joint Expeditionary Base (JEB) Little Creek-Fort Story, VA partnered to help restore the beach areas hardest hit by a late 2009 northeaster. Natural resources staff with Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Mid-Atlantic set up tree accumulation areas at both the East (formerly U.S. Army Garrison Fort Story) and West (formerly Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek) properties.

“This is a great project to support, is easy to participate in, and helps the environment. This is especially true following our recent storm,” said Sara Bell, NAVFAC’s natural resources specialist. “Not only can our military families go green by buying a real tree this holiday season, but they now know that they can help our base go green all year long by donating their tree. We have limited and valuable training beaches on the JEB. Our military families can help protect those scarce resources.”

After the November 2009 storm, most of the gently sloping sand dunes had eroded into vertical-faced drop-offs. Some dunes were completely washed out and water and sand poured into the developed areas of the installation. Luckily, discarded Christmas trees started piling up on 26 December. By 12 January 2010, the tree turnout was impressive—51 and 71 trees from the East and West campuses, respectively. About half of the trees came from other Navy and Army installations, showing that this really was a team effort that spanned military branches and bases.

On the morning of 12 January, the temperature was 30 degrees Fahrenheit (°F) with a wind-chill of 19°F, yet volunteers still turned out to help with tree placement. At JEB East, the Christmas trees were placed landward of sand fencing still in place. At JEB West, trenches were dug at the dune base and trees were “planted” upright to protect the dune face.

“I was impressed that people still showed up. Once we reached the dune crest, we had to lean into the wind to get the trees over the sand fencing. The trees help reestablish the dunes by catching more sand than the fencing alone. Where there is no sand fencing yet, the upright trees will guard against wind and water erosion,” Bell said.

Trees were placed behind sand fencing at JEB Little Creek-Fort Story.

Sara Bell



She notes that the project would not have been a success without tree donations and the volunteer assistance from co-workers, housing management, and citizens. Bell has plans to continue restoration efforts in spring and autumn 2010 by installing more sand fencing and planting native warm and cool season grasses. 🌱

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Chief of Naval Operations Environmental Award Winners Named for FY 2009

Awards Recognize Exceptional Environmental Stewardship

WINNERS OF THE Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) Environmental Awards competition, sponsored by the CNO Environmental Readiness Division were announced 5 February 2010.

The annual CNO Environmental Awards competition recognizes Navy ships, installations, and people for exceptional environmental stewardship. The FY 2009 competition categories included: natural resources conservation, cultural resources management, environmental quality, sustainability, environmental restoration and environmental excellence in weapon system acquisition.

The 25 winners listed alphabetically within category are:

Natural Resources Conservation Small Installation Award:

- Commander Fleet Activities Yokosuka, Japan
- Naval Air Station Pensacola, FL
- Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach Detachment Fallbrook, CA

Natural Resources Conservation Individual or Team Award:

- John R. Burger of Pacific Missile Range Facility, Hawaii
- Environmental Team of Naval Undersea Warfare Center Division Newport, RI
- Michael F. Wright of Naval Air Station Oceana, VA

Environmental Quality Non-industrial Installation Award:

- Naval Base Coronado, CA
- Naval Base San Diego, CA
- U.S. Naval Support Activity Bahrain

Environmental Quality Individual or Team Award:

- Awni M. Almasri of Naval Facilities Engineering Command Europe Africa Southwest Asia
- Environmental Program Management Team of U.S. Navy Region Center, Singapore
- Environmental Quality Team of Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, CA

Environmental Quality Large Ship Award:

- USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69)
- USS FRANK CABLE (AS 40)

Sustainability Industrial Installation Award:

- Fleet Readiness Center East, Cherry Point, NC
- Fleet Readiness Center Southwest, San Diego, CA

Environmental Restoration Installation Award:

- Former Naval Air Facility Adak, AK
- Naval Air Facility El Centro, CA
- Naval Air Station Brunswick, ME

Environmental Restoration Individual or Team Award:


- Alameda Point Environmental Restoration Team of Base Realignment and Closure Program Management Office West, CA
- Environmental Restoration Team of Naval Base Ventura County, CA
- Vieques Naval Installation Project Management Team, Puerto Rico, of Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic

Environmental Excellence in Weapon System Acquisition Team Award:

- F/A-18E/F & EA-18G Program Office (PMA-265) Green Hornet Team of Program Executive Officer, Tactical Aircraft Programs
- F-35 Lightning II Environmental, Safety and Occupational Health Team of Program Executive Officer, Joint Strike Fighter Program
- Marine Species Mitigation Research Team (PMA-264) of Program Executive Officer, Air Anti-Submarine Warfare, Assault and Special Mission Programs

Rear Admiral Herman Shelanski, director of the CNO Environmental Readiness Division, commended the winners.

“Bravo zulu to all award winners, and thanks to all commands who participated. You have achieved environmental excellence while supporting the maritime strategy. Your sustained commitment to environmental stewardship is an integral part of Navy operations and vital to overall Navy mission accomplishment.”

The CNO award winners will be honored 1 June 2010 in a ceremony in Washington, D.C. at the U.S. Navy Memorial and Naval Heritage Center. 

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N45 Provides Expanded EPCRA Guidance for Environmental Managers

New EPCRA Guidance on Batteries Makes Reporting Easier

THE CHIEF OF Naval Operations Environmental Readiness Division (N45) has expanded its “Getting Started with the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA)” (May 2009) guidance with a new section on batteries. “How to Consider Batteries Under EPCRA” expands on the previous guidance by providing detailed information on:

- Developing a list of batteries stored and used at the installation,
- Applying battery exemptions,
- Identifying and calculating battery thresholds, and
- Preparing and submitting EPCRA reports for batteries.

Sample calculations on batteries for each section of EPCRA are also provided. The new section covers all applicable EPCRA reporting requirements including:

- Emergency Planning (Section 302),
- Hazardous Chemical Inventory Reporting (Sections 311/312), and
- Toxic Chemical Release Reporting (Section 313).

In addition, an Excel™ spreadsheet, “Calculation Manual—Batteries,” included with the expanded guidance provides a template for calculations and documentation for an EPCRA battery analysis. Sample values (that must be deleted when used for an installation) are included in italics in the spreadsheet to assist the user.

You may request a copy of “How to Consider Batteries Under EPCRA” and the accompanying calculation spreadsheet from Anita Firestine at anita_firestine@urscorp.com or download an electronic version from the Toxic Release Inventory Data Delivery System (TRI-DDS) web page at <https://dod-tridds.org/tri-web/> (login required). Once on the TRI-DDS site, click on “Documents” on the left side menu bar to view two battery-related files. 📎

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BE PART OF OUR FALL ISSUE

Submissions Are Due by 23 July

We’re already planning our fall 2010 issue and you can be a part of it! If you have a story that you want us to consider, you need to submit your final text and images by 23 July 2010.

We look forward to reading your stories about all the great work you’re doing as the Navy’s stewards of the environment.

The power of your experiences is even greater when you share them with our readers.

Your chances of being published in *Currents* are dramatically increased if you follow our article template. Simply request this easy-to-use template by sending an email to Bruce McCaffrey, our Managing Editor, at brucemccaffrey@sbcglobal.net. Bruce is available at 773-376-6200 if you have any questions or would like to discuss your story ideas.

Currents Deadlines

Fall 2010 Issue: Friday, 23 July 2010
Winter 2011 Issue: Friday, 22 October 2010
Spring 2011 Issue: Friday, 21 January 2011
Summer 2011 Issue: Friday, 22 April 2011

You can also refer to your *Currents* calendar for reminders about these deadlines.

